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Attorney Docket No. 021645-000100US  
Client Reference No. 149015/LS/KR

PEX

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. National Phase of:  
PCT/NO00/00279

ARNE SELE, et al.

Application No.: Not yet assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: A HYBRID RISER CONFIGURATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

San Francisco, CA 94111  
February 22, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-10.

Please substitute the following new claims 11-30:

(new) 11. A hybrid riser configuration having a submerged tower (4) comprising a plurality of riser pipes (10) substantially inserted in guide conduits (9), and also having buoyancy means (6) and tethering tension means, the riser pipes (10) and guide conduits (9) being connected to a base (5) anchored to the ocean floor, wherein a plurality of the guide conduits (9) are acting as multiple tethers, each guide conduit (9) further acting as a radial constraint in elastic spiral deformation of the riser pipe (10) inside.

(new) 12. A hybrid riser configuration according to claim 11, wherein the riser pipes (10) and guide conduits (9) are rigidly connected both to the base (5) and the buoyancy means (6) of the riser configuration.